Non-functional metal detectors at airports

647. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that not a single door-frame metal detector put up at airports across the country is functional;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has uncovered a Rs.12 crore door-frame metal detector scam in his Ministry;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any investigations in this matter; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) The Security Enforcement Committee during its inspection found that the Door-Frame Metal Detectors (DFMDs) installed by Airports Authority of India at various airports are functional to the extent that they can detect objectionable objects weighing 30 gms. and above. However, the detection pattern of the DFMD is varying irrespective of the weight, depending on the shape/size of an object, its positioning on the body of a passenger and the speed with which he/she walks through the DFMD.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A Committee was constituted to verify from other International Airports if similar variation in detection pattern of DFMDs is experienced. It is found from the experience in Kuala Lumpur International Airport that the DFMD's detection capability is varying and that it needs to be supplemented by Hand Held Metal Detectors (HHMDs) to strengthen security measures.

Food items banned by BCAS

648. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has struck off pickles from the list of banned items in hand baggage; and

(b) if so, the list of the items that are banned and not banned in the new modified list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new list of items banned for carriage in Hand Baggage on board is at Statement-I (See below). The new list of items permitted in Hand Baggage is at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Items Banned for carriage in Hang Baggage on Board Flights Operating from Civil Indian Airports and Indian Registered Aircraft from Foreign airports

Weapons and Explosives	
Guns/Revolvers/Pistols of any type and Replica items of these Ammunition/Bullets of any type, any sharp disabling weapons/ knives of any size or type (except Kripan with 6" blade and 3" handle on domestic routes and plastic cutlery), Brass Kunckles	Explosives of any type, disabling chemicals or gases
Trademan Tools	
Large Heavy tools—(wrenches, pliers, crow bar, axes, Ice pick) Power drill/saws	Fire extinguishers, Box cutters, Screw-drivers
Sports Items	
Darts, Bows and Arrows, Mace, Martial Arts Devices	Pool cues, Hockey sticks, Baseball bats, Golf clubs, Cricket bats, Ski Poles
Miscellaneous	
Gas Lighter, Corkscrews, Razor Blades, Straight razors	Scissors (exceeding 6 cms in length), Chilly powder, Household Cutlery, Knitting Needles

NOTE : The above list is not exhaustive but indicative of items, which can endanger civil aviation security.

Statement-II

List of items which are permitted to be carried in hand baggage

1. Walking stick
2. Umbrella (folding type)
3. Feeding bottle
4. Shaving kit, excluding razor blade and straight razors
5. Medicines required during flight like Asthma inhaler etc.
6. Laptops
7. Cell phones
8. Pickles.

All these items will be subjected to prescribed security checks.

Airspace management

649. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to make airspace management more flexible which will lead to ten to fifteen per cent expansion in the Indian air space;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether at present airspace is divided between civil and military operations and if so, the percentage of air space available to military organizations and civilian aircrafts; and

(d) whether the civil and Indian air force authorities have discussed air safety measure and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the flexible use of airspace is only to permit civil aircraft to use the airspace exclusively reserved for military purposes for optimum utilization of Indian airspace but not for expansion of the existing Indian airspace.